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03560.002546.



PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: )  
HIDEYUKI MAKITANI )  
Appln. No.: 09/518,636 )  
Filed: March 3, 2000 )  
For: IMAGE READING APPARATUS )  
SELECTIVELY CONNECTABLE :  
TO IMAGE FORMING )  
APPARATUS VIA A NETWORK :  
(As Amended) )

Examiner: K. Y. Poon  
Group Art Unit: 2624  
July 9, 2004

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Technology Center 2600

Commissioner for Patents  
P. O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

Sir:

This paper is filed in response to the Office Action dated June 10, 2004, imposing a restriction requirement in the above-identified case. In the Office Action, the Examiner required election of a single disclosed invention for continued prosecution on the merits in this case. The Examiner alleged the existence of three patentably distinct inventions:

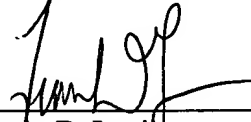
1. Group I (Claims 1, 2, 6, 7, 15, 16, 26, and 27) drawn to an image reading apparatus, classified in class 358, subclass 474;
2. Group II (Claims 28-32) drawn to an image processing/forming apparatus classified in class 399, subclass 2: and
3. Group III (Claim 33) drawn to communication of an image processing system, classified in class 358, subclass 1.15.

Applicant hereby elects, without traverse, Group I, Claims 1, 2, 6, 7, 15, 16, 26, and 27, for continued prosecution on the merits

Favorable consideration and early passage to issue of the present application are respectfully requested.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



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Frank A. DeLucia  
Attorney for Applicant

Registration No. 42,476

FITZPATRICK, CELLA, HARPER & SCINTO  
30 Rockefeller Plaza  
New York, New York 10112-3801  
Facsimile: (212) 218-2200